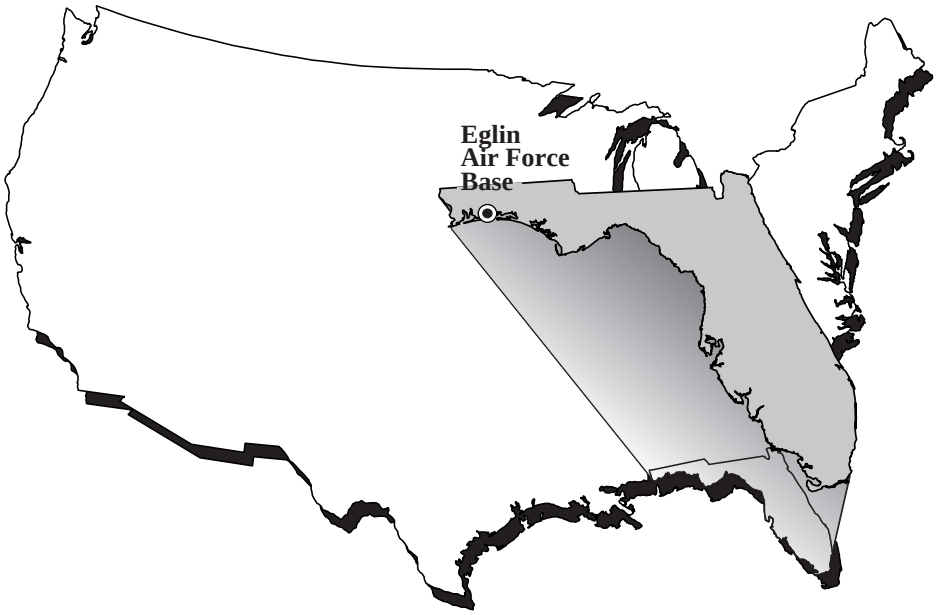
FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
February 2004



EGLIN READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-450 & -451

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED
FEB 2004		**00-00-2004 to 00-00-2004**

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
Final Environmental Assessment Eglin Readiness Center Improvements Project Eglin Air Force Base, Florida	5b. GRANT NUMBER
	5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER
	5e. TASK NUMBER
	5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) **Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence,3300 Sidney Brooks Road,Brooks City-Base,TX,78235**	8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
	11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential environmental consequences from the proposed expansion of the paved marshalling yard and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter at the ERC, Eglin AFB. The document includes analysis of land use and aesthetics, geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources. The Proposed Action consists of extending the existing paved marshalling yard at the ERC approximately 100 feet to the northeast and installation of the shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400. The Alternative to the Proposed Action includes a 270- square-foot extension of the paved marshalling yard to the northwest and installation of the shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400. The No-Action Alternative, which would entail no ERC improvements, was also evaluated. No significant adverse environmental impacts are expected from the proposed ERC improvements project.

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT **unclassified**	b. ABSTRACT **unclassified**	c. THIS PAGE **unclassified**	**Same as Report (SAR)**	**64**	

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EGLIN READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT,
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-450 & -451

The Air Force has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential for impacts as a result of the proposed Eglin Readiness Center (ERC) improvements project, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Okaloosa County, Florida. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989).

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) summarizes the results of the analyses documented in the EA. The discussion is focused on activities that have the potential to impact either the natural or the human environments, or both.

Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

The proposed action includes the extension of the ERC paved marshalling yard approximately 100 feet to the northeast and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400 in the ERC. The alternative to the proposed action includes a 270-square foot extension of the paved marshalling yard to the northwest and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400 in the ERC. A no-action alternative, under which no ERC improvements would occur, was also considered.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Implementation of the ERC improvements project would not result in short- or long-term impacts to socioeconomics, utilities, transportation, airspace, hazardous materials management, hazardous waste management, storage tanks, the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), asbestos-containing materials, lead-based paint, radioactive materials, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls, radon, medical/biohazardous waste, ordnance, noise, cultural resources, or environmental justice. Although no ERP sites or areas of concern exist in the vicinity of the ERC, activities would be halted immediately and the ERP contacted if any discolored soil or unusual odors are encountered during construction activities. In addition, although no adverse impacts to cultural resources are expected, in the unexpected event that archaeological resources are discovered during construction activities, activities will be halted in the immediate area and Air Armament Center/Environmental Management Cultural Resources Division (AAC/EMR) would be contacted to determine appropriate actions.

The resources analyzed in more detail are land use and aesthetics, geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources.

Expansion of the existing paved marshalling yard and installation of the aircraft cargo loader shelter would be an expansion of an existing land use and would be consistent with the ERC area's designation as industrial in the base's general plan. It would also be compatible with adjacent aircraft operations and maintenance land uses. The removal of wooded areas to construct the marshalling yard extension would result in an adverse impact to visual resources, but would not affect any view visible to the public and or result in a significant change to the general visual environment of the ERC area.

Construction of the marshalling yard extension would involve ground disturbance. Under the proposed action, approximately 1.3 acres of ground disturbance would occur. The alternative to the proposed action would involve approximately 2.7 acres of ground disturbance. Implementation of standard erosion control measures during construction would reduce the potential for soil erosion. Because the proposed expansion would disturb between 1 and 5 acres, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would be required. The NPDES permit would require development and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan, which would include measures to control soil erosion. No surface water features are situated near the ERC that would be affected by construction activities. The NPDES permit would minimize potential impacts from storm water runoff during construction activities. The expanded marshalling yard would result in an increase in impervious surfaces that could result in a decrease in groundwater recharge. Compliance with Florida Administrative Code regulations requiring detention or retention of storm water runoff would minimize this impact by allowing storm water runoff to filter into the ground.

Air emissions produced by construction equipment operation and ground-disturbing activities would be short term and minimal.

Marshalling yard expansion would require the removal of natural vegetation. The proposed action would result in the removal of less than 1 acre of woodlands. Under the alternative to the proposed action, approximately 2.7 acres of woodland would be removed. In both cases, the wooded areas that would be affected are fragmented and situated within a developed area. No sensitive species or sensitive habitats would be affected by the ERC improvements project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No significant adverse impacts have been identified for the proposed action, the alternative to the proposed action, or the no-action alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures would be required.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The EA reviewed cumulative impacts that could result from the incremental impact of proposed activities when added to past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions. No other actions have been identified in the vicinity of the ERC that could present the potential for cumulative environmental impacts.

DECISION

After considering the analysis of the potential environmental impacts documented in the attached EA, and after considering the mitigation measures described above, I have concluded that the activities proposed to be conducted under the proposed action, the alternative to the proposed action, or the no-action alternative would not have a significant effect on the human or natural environments. The EA also provides sufficient evidence and analysis to determine that an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required.

James D. Sirmans

JAMES D. SIRMANS, GM-15
Director, Environmental Management

25 Feb 2004

Date

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EGLIN READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-450 & -451

FEBRUARY 2004

COVER SHEET

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
EGLIN READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT,
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
RCS 02-450 & -451

a. Lead Agency: U.S. Air Force

b. Proposed Action: Expansion of the paved marshalling yard and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter at the Eglin Readiness Center (ERC), Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.

c. Inquiries on this document should be directed to: Mr. Charles Brown, Program Manager, HQ AFCEE/ECE, 3300 Sidney Brooks, Brooks AFB, Texas 78235-5112, (210) 536-4203, fax (210) 536-3890.

d. Designation: Environmental Assessment (EA)

e. Abstract: This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the potential environmental consequences from the proposed expansion of the paved marshalling yard and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter at the ERC, Eglin AFB. The document includes analysis of land use and aesthetics, geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources. The Proposed Action consists of extending the existing paved marshalling yard at the ERC approximately 100 feet to the northeast and installation of the shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400. The Alternative to the Proposed Action includes a 270-square-foot extension of the paved marshalling yard to the northwest and installation of the shelter between Buildings 1392 and 1400. The No-Action Alternative, which would entail no ERC improvements, was also evaluated.

No significant adverse environmental impacts are expected from the proposed ERC improvements project.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued)

Page

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAC	Air Armament Center
AFB	Air Force Base
AFI	Air Force Instruction
APE	Area of Potential Effect
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dB	decibel
DNL	day-night average sound level
EA	environmental assessment
EMH	Environmental Management Cultural Resources Division
EMR	Environmental Restoration
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERC	Eglin Readiness Center
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
FAAQS	Florida Ambient Air Quality Standards
FAC	Florida Administrative Code
LGRR	Readiness Flight
96LRS	96th Logistics Readiness Squadron
$\mu g/m^3$	microgram per cubic meter
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
pCi/L	picoCuries per liter
PM_{10}	particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
ppm	parts per million
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
ROI	region of influence
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SR	State Road
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

This environmental assessment (EA) examines the potential for impacts to the environment as a result of implementing improvements at the Eglin Readiness Center (ERC), Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida (Figure 1-1). This document has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989).

1.1 PURPOSE AND NEED

Eglin AFB's 96th Logistics Readiness Squadron Readiness Flight (96 LRS/LGRR) manages all squadron deployment and contingency support requirements. The Air Terminal Operations work center within the Readiness Flight manages day-to day terminal operations and is responsible for, among other activities, processing cargo and loading and unloading aircraft. The ERC at Buildings 1392 and 1400 is used for processing cargo during a deployment or contingency. The paved marshalling yard at these buildings is used to process cargo before it is loaded onto aircraft. This area is too small to efficiently process the cargo requirements of current deployments, resulting in processing delays. Adjacent vehicle parking areas need to be utilized to support the cargo processing activities, necessitating that employees park their vehicles on adjacent unpaved areas. The marshalling area becomes congested and traffic backs up onto roads affecting access to Eglin AFB through the nearby Nomad Access Gate. Expansion of the existing paved area of the marshalling yard is required to relieve the congestion and allow for more efficient cargo processing.

Cargo processing activities involve the use of aircraft cargo loaders. When not in use, this equipment is parked in the open on an aircraft ramp in the airfield area. The equipment is exposed to the weather and is starting to rust. Each of these pieces of equipment is valued at more than 1 million dollars. In order to prevent further corrosion to the equipment from the weather, a shelter for the aircraft cargo loaders is required.

1.2 SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This EA describes and addresses the potential environmental impacts of the activities associated with the ERC improvements project. The EA evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Action, an Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative.

Consistent with Air Force policy and procedures (32 CFR Part 989) and the CEQ regulations, the scope of analysis presented in this EA is defined by the potential range of environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the alternatives. Resources that have a potential for impact were considered in more detail in order to provide the decision maker with sufficient evidence and analysis

EXPLANATION

- Florida Land Boundary
- Eglin Land Test Range
- Eglin Gulf Test Range

0 45 90 Miles

Eglin AFB and the Eglin Military Complex

Figure 1-1

for determining whether or not additional analysis is required pursuant to Title 40 CFR Part 1508.9.

The resources analyzed in more detail are: land use and aesthetics, geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources. The affected environment and the potential environmental consequences relative to these resources are described in Chapters 3.0 and 4.0, respectively.

Initial analysis indicated that the proposed activities would not result in either short- or long-term impacts to socioeconomics, utilities, transportation, airspace, hazardous materials management, hazardous waste management, storage tanks, the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP), asbestos, lead-based paint, radioactive materials, pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), radon, medical/biohazardous waste, ordnance, noise, cultural resources, or environmental justice. The reasons for not addressing these resources are briefly discussed in the following paragraphs.

Socioeconomics. There would be no change in population and permanent employment associated with the proposed ERC improvements. Employment associated with construction activities would be short term and minimal. Because no changes in population or employment are expected, impacts to socioeconomics would not be expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Utilities. No increases in population or employment that could result in increased utility usage are expected. The proposed ERC improvements project would require electricity for lighting and for exhaust fans in the shelter, but there are no other utility requirements associated with the proposed project. Electricity requirements would be well within the existing capacity of Eglin AFB (Earth Tech, 2003). The proposed improvements do not entail demolition of existing structures; however, extension of the existing marshalling yard area may generate some solid waste from activities such as removal of fencing and curbing along the edge of the existing marshalling yard. Solid waste would be disposed of off site in a permitted landfill. Significant quantities of solid waste are not expected to be generated. Impacts to utilities are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Transportation. The proposed ERC improvements would not result in any changes in traffic levels or patterns, nor result in any changes to existing roads. Construction activities would result in a short-term and insignificant increase in construction traffic accessing Eglin AFB. Once completed, the proposed ERC improvements would be expected to decrease traffic congestion on roads that access the ERC during a deployment by increasing the efficiency of cargo processing. Impacts to transportation are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Airspace. There are no aircraft operations associated with the ERC improvements project. Impacts to airspace are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Hazardous Materials Management. Small quantities of materials such as fuels, oils, and lubricants associated with the operation of construction equipment may be used during construction activities. The construction contractor would be responsible for following applicable regulations and procedures for the management of these materials. Routine use of these materials would not be expected to present an impact to the base's hazardous materials management. Cargo processing activities do entail handling of some materials considered hazardous (e.g., fuel). After completion of the ERC improvements, there would be no change in hazardous materials storage or usage from current conditions. Impacts to hazardous materials management are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Hazardous Waste Management. Hazardous waste is not expected to be generated by construction activities. Hazardous materials required (e.g., fuel, paint) would generally be used in process. The construction contractor would be responsible for following applicable regulations and procedures for the management of any hazardous wastes that may be generated from these materials in accordance with applicable regulations and procedures. After completion of the ERC improvements, there would be no changes in hazardous waste generation, storage, or disposal from current conditions. Impacts to hazardous waste management are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Storage Tanks. There are no storage tanks at the ERC and no storage tanks would be used for the ERC improvements project. Impacts from storage tanks are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Environmental Restoration Program. Investigation of suspected or known past hazardous waste disposal sites is required by Eglin AFB's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Corrective Action Permit issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The ERP is required to conduct investigations of these suspected or known sites in order to evaluate impacts to human health or the environment. While there are no ERP sites or Areas of Concern in the vicinity of the ERC, the discovery of discolored soil or the presence of unusual odors during construction activities could indicate that hazardous contaminants are present. In the unexpected event that either of these conditions are encountered during construction activities, work would cease in the immediate area and Air Armament Center/ Environmental Restoration (AAC/EMR) would be contacted immediately. Impacts to the ERP are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Asbestos. The ERC improvements project would not include any activities with the potential to disturb asbestos in existing structures, and no new structures containing asbestos would be constructed. Impacts from asbestos are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Lead-Based Paint. The ERC improvements project would not include any activities with the potential to disturb lead-based paint in existing structures. Impacts from lead-based paint are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Radioactive Materials. The ERC improvements project would not require the use of radioactive materials. Impacts from radioactive materials are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Pesticides. No changes in existing pesticide usage would be expected from the proposed ERC improvements project. Impacts from pesticide usage are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls. Eglin AFB is considered PCB free (Earth Tech, 2003). No PCB equipment would be associated with the ERC improvements project. Therefore, impacts from PCBs are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Radon. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared a map of radon zones based on radon potential. Predicted indoor radon levels are highest in Zone 1 and lowest in Zone 3. The ERC is situated in Okaloosa County, Florida, which is designated as a Zone 3 county. Predicted average indoor radon levels in Zone 3 areas are less than 2 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). However, radon potential within a county can vary (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003a). The U.S. EPA's recommenced action level for homes is 4 pCi/L or higher. The proposed ERC improvements project does not involve any inhabited structures. Therefore, impacts from radon are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Medical/Biohazardous Waste. Medical/biohazardous waste has not been generated at the ERC and none would be generated from the proposed ERC improvements project. Impacts from medical/biohazardous waste are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Ordnance. Ordnance has not been stored, used, or disposed at the ERC, and the proposed ERC improvements project would not include the storage, use, or disposal of ordnance. Impacts from ordnance are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Noise. Noise generated from construction activities would be short term, intermittent, and localized. No changes in existing noise levels would be expected to occur from the operation of the ERC after the improvements have been completed. The ERC is situated within the 70-75 decibel (dB) day-night average sound level (DNL) noise contours of the Eglin AFB airfield (Earth Tech, 2003). The ERC improvements project would support a continuation of existing aircraft cargo processing activities that are required to occur near the airfield. These activities are compatible with this noise level (Department of the Air Force, 1999). Impacts from noise are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA.

Cultural Resources. Archaeological surveys and historic assessments are conducted on Eglin AFB as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Air Force Instruction (AFI) 32-7065, *Cultural Resources Management*. Eligible resources are protected and preserved. Although many sites and structures are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

(NRHP), no archaeological sites have been identified in the ERC area and the area is considered to have a low potential for archaeological resources. Structures at the ERC and in adjacent areas have been evaluated as ineligible for listing on the NRHP. No traditional cultural resources have been identified in the ERC area. However, in the unexpected event that archaeological resources are discovered during construction activities, work would cease in the immediate area and AAC/Environmental Management Cultural Resources Division (EMH) would be contacted. Impacts to cultural resources are not expected and are not analyzed further in this EA. Consultation with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer is not required because there are no known cultural resources in the area of potential effect.

Environmental Justice. The proposed activities would not generate any environmental effects that would adversely affect low-income or minority populations. Therefore, an environmental justice analysis is not required and is not provided in this EA.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section describes the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative, as well as alternatives considered but eliminated from further study. This section also provides a comparison of the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative.

The ERC is situated in the Main Base area of Eglin AFB. It is adjacent to the flightline area near the Nomad Access Gate at the west side of the Main Base area (Figure 2-1).

2.2 PROPOSED ACTION

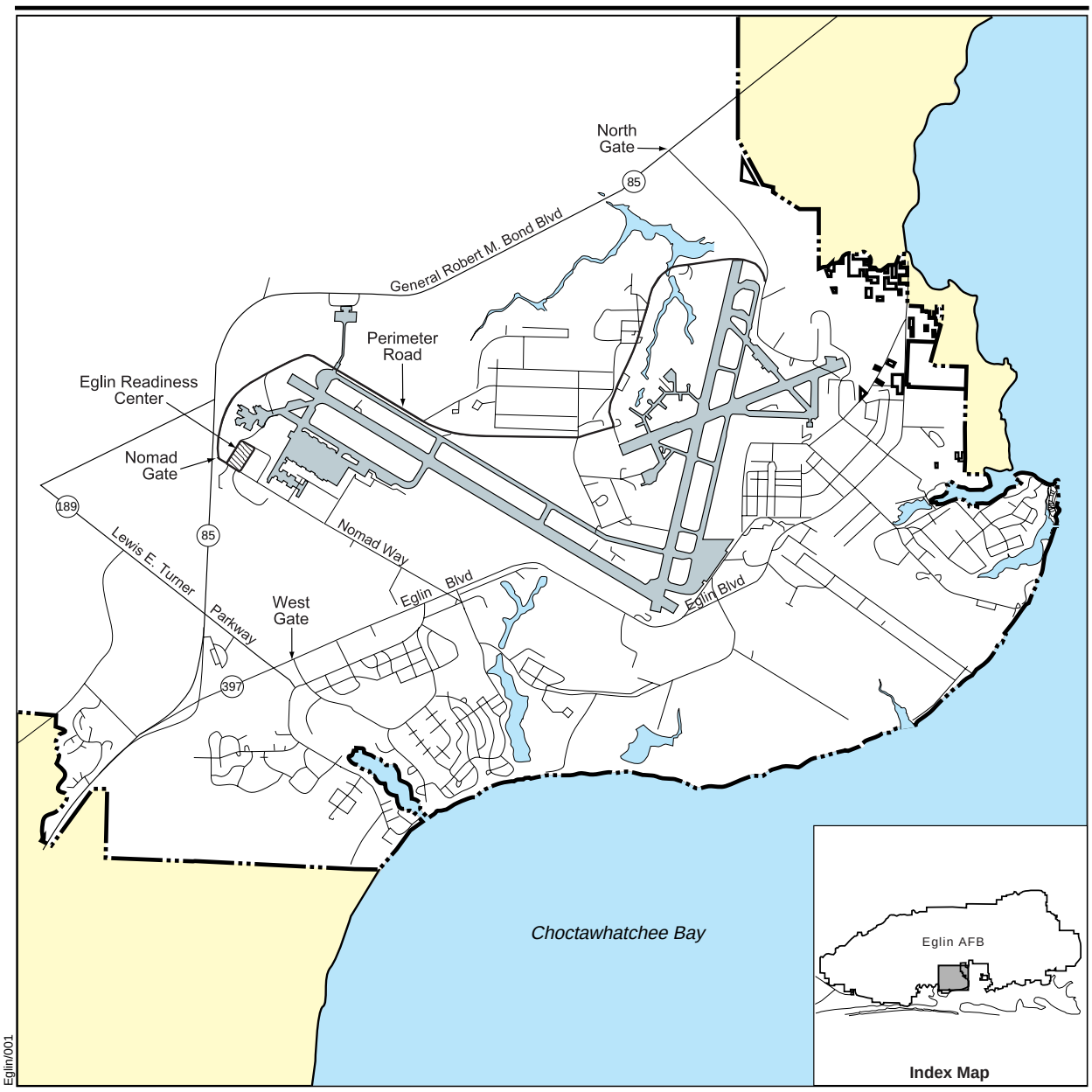
The Proposed Action would entail extending the existing marshalling yard at Buildings 1392 and 1400 and installing a shelter for storage of aircraft cargo loaders (Figure 2-2). Current ERC operations would continue during construction activities.

Construction equipment would enter the base at the North Gate situated at State Road (SR) 85 and access the site via Perimeter Road on the north side of the Eglin AFB airfield (see Figure 2-1).

Marshalling Yard Extension

The existing paved marshalling yard at Buildings 1392 and 1400 would be extended approximately 100 feet to the northeast. The extension would be along the entire length of the existing paved area, approximately 312 feet in length. The extension would also include paving an area of approximately 140 feet by 93 feet between a portion of the marshalling yard and the access road to the flightline area. The total area of pavement expansion would encompass approximately 44,220 square feet or about 1 acre. The pavement would extend approximately 85 feet beyond the existing fence surrounding the paved area of the marshalling yard.

The proposed extension area beyond the existing fenceline is partially wooded and is up to approximately 5 feet lower in elevation than the existing marshalling yard. Extension of the paved marshalling yard would entail removal of less than 1 acre of trees in this area and grading the area to bring it level with the existing paved area. The construction contractor conducting the land clearing would remove all vegetation from the work site. Any removed vegetation that is not reused would be disposed in a secure, permitted construction and demolition debris landfill. A maximum of approximately 5 feet of fill would be required. A graded slope approximately 10 feet wide (1:2 slope) would be required around the perimeter of the fill area to transition to the surrounding topography. This



EXPLANATION

Base Boundary

85 State Road

0 .35 .7 1.4 Kilometers

Eglin Readiness Center Location, Eglin AFB Main Base

Figure 2-1

EXPLANATION

- Existing Fenceline
- Proposed Extended Fenceline
- Proposed Marshalling Yard Pavement Extension
- Proposed Shelter
- Existing Buildings

Approximate Scale

0 70 140 Feet

Proposed Action

Figure 2-2

area has not been surveyed yet, so the exact amount of fill that would be required is not known. However, based on the size of the area and the maximum difference in elevation, it is estimated that a maximum of approximately 8,580 cubic yards of fill could be required.

The existing fenceline would be extended around the expanded marshalling yard. The extension would require removal and replacement of a fire hydrant. An existing line of street lights along the northern edge of the marshalling yard may be removed and replaced, or left in place and additional street lights added in the extension area.

The total area of disturbance, which would include the marshalling yard extension, surrounding fenceline, the graded slope, and additional area around the circumference of the site to allow for construction equipment operation, would not be expected to exceed 1.3 acres. The marshalling yard extension would require incorporation of a system to detain or retain storm water runoff, such as a detention or retention basin, in accordance with Florida Administrative Code (FAC) Chapter 62-25, Regulations of Stormwater Discharge.

Aircraft Cargo Loader Shelter

A shelter to provide overhead protection for aircraft cargo loaders would be installed. This structure would be a metal awning, 120 feet long and 88.5 feet wide, capable of sheltering two cargo loaders. The structure would be installed between Buildings 1392 and 1400 in the existing paved marshalling yard area and would match the length, height, and appearance of Building 1392. The structure would be open sided and would not include any enclosed office space or restrooms. The structure would require electrical outlets, lighting, and exhaust fans. No water, sanitary sewer, or natural gas connections would be required.

2.3 ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Alternative to the Proposed Action, the marshalling yard would be extended to the northwest, rather than to the northeast (Figure 2-3). The extension area would be situated on the opposite side of the flightline access road from the existing marshalling yard area. An area of approximately 270 feet by 270 feet (1.7 acres) north of the access road would be paved. Under this alternative, the 140-foot by 93-foot area at the intersection of the road and existing marshalling yard area would be paved, as under the Proposed Action. A total of approximately 85,920 square feet (about 2 acres) would be paved.

The area to the north of the access road is mostly wooded and is lower in elevation than the existing marshalling yard. This area would be evaluated for merchantable timber by Jackson Guard personnel (part of the Air Armament Center/Environmental Management). If it is determined that the area contains a sufficient amount of merchantable timber that it would be economically feasible to harvest it, merchantable timber would be salvaged before the vegetation is cleared.

EXPLANATION

- Existing Fenceline
- Proposed Extended Fenceline
- Proposed Marshalling Yard Pavement Extension
- Proposed Shelter
- Existing Buildings

Approximate Scale

0 70 140 Feet

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Figure 2-3

Extension of the paved marshalling yard to the north of the flightline access road would entail removal of approximately 2 acres of trees and grading the area to bring it level with the existing paved area. After salvage of merchantable timber has been completed, if economically feasible, the construction contractor conducting the land clearing would remove all remaining vegetation from the work site. Any removed vegetation that is not reused would be disposed in a secure, permitted construction and demolition debris landfill. This area has not been surveyed, so the exact amount of fill that would be required is not known. However, based on the size of the area and the maximum difference in elevation, it is estimated that a maximum of approximately 16,810 cubic yards of fill could be required

The existing fenceline would be extended around the expanded marshalling yard. The extension would require removal and replacement of a fire hydrant. Additional street lights would be required in the extension area.

The total area of disturbance, which would include the marshalling yard extension, surrounding fenceline, a graded slope between the fill area under the paved yard and the surrounding topography, and an additional area around the circumference of the site to allow for construction equipment operation, would not be expected to exceed 2.7 acres. As under the Proposed Action, the marshalling yard extension would require incorporation of a system to detain or retain storm water runoff in accordance with FAC Chapter 62-25 requirements.

Construction of the aircraft cargo loader shelter would be the same as described under the Proposed Action.

2.4 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the marshalling yard would not be expanded and the equipment shelter would not be constructed. ERC activities would continue to occur within the existing marshalling yard space. The aircraft cargo loaders would continue to be parked in the open on an aircraft ramp in the airfield area.

2.5 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER STUDY

Alternatives considered but eliminated from further study include extension of the ERC marshalling yard in another direction. The flow of cargo moves from the roads where it is brought into the marshalling yard toward the flightline for loading onto aircraft. The direction of this cargo flow is southwest to northeast. Any extension in another direction other than to the northeast, as under the Proposed Action, or to the northwest, as under the Alternative to the Proposed Action, would not facilitate the flow of cargo processing towards the flightline. An in-ground scale, which is situated outside of Building 1400, is used during cargo processing activities. A change in the cargo processing caused by extending the marshalling yard to the southwest or southeast would require relocation of this scale. In addition, extension to the southwest would impinge on the existing roads in this area. For these reasons, extension of the ERC marshalling yard to the southwest or southeast were eliminated from further consideration.

2.6 COMPARISON OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Table 2-1 presents a summary comparison of potential environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative.

Table 2-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative
Page 1 of 3

Resource Category	Proposed Action	Alternative to the Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Land Use and Aesthetics	**Impacts:** Marshalling yard extension would be an expansion of an existing land use, would be consistent with the ERC's industrial land use designation in the base's general plan, and would be compatible with adjacent areas designated for aircraft operation and maintenance. Removal of wooded areas would adversely affect visual resources, but the ERC area is not visible to the public and the marshalling yard expansion and construction of the aircraft cargo loader shelter would not change the general visual environment of the ERC area.	**Impacts:** Impacts would be the same as described for the Proposed Action.	**Impacts:** No changes in land use or aesthetics from existing conditions.
	Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.
Geology and Soils	**Impacts:** Short-term impacts could occur from approximately 1.3 acres of ground disturbance during marshalling yard expansion. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for impacts from construction activities. NPDES permit storm water pollution prevention plan would require measures to control soil erosion.	**Impacts:** Short-term impacts could occur from approximately 2.7 acres of ground disturbance during marshalling yard expansion. Implementation of standard erosion control measures would reduce the potential for impacts from construction activities. NPDES permit storm water pollution prevention plan would require measures to control soil erosion.	**Impacts:** No ground-disturbing activities would occur. No change from existing conditions is expected.
	Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.

Table 2-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative
Page 2 of 3

Resource Category	Proposed Action	Alternative to the Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Water Resources	**Impacts:** No permanent surface water features would be affected. NPDES permit storm water pollution prevention plan would require measures to minimize impacts from storm water runoff during construction activities. An increase of approximately 1 acre of impervious surfaces could decrease groundwater recharge. FAC regulations requiring detention or retention of storm water runoff would allow storm water runoff to filter into the ground.	**Impacts:** No permanent surface water features would be affected. NPDES permit storm water pollution prevention plan would require measures to minimize impacts from storm water runoff during construction activities. An increase of approximately 1.7 acres of impervious surfaces could decrease groundwater recharge. FAC regulations requiring detention or retention of storm water runoff would allow storm water runoff to filter into the ground.	**Impacts:** No ground-disturbing activities would occur and no new impervious surfaces would be created. No change from existing conditions is expected.
	Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.
Air Quality	**Impacts:** Construction activities would produce air emissions from construction equipment exhaust and fugitive dust from ground-disturbing activities. These air emissions would be minimal and short term. After construction, vehicle exhaust emissions during a deployment may be slightly reduced because of increased efficiency of cargo processing.	**Impacts:** Impacts would be similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Action except that a slightly higher amount of emissions would be produced during construction activities because of the larger area of construction.	**Impacts:** No emissions would result from construction equipment operation or ground-disturbing activities. However, traffic congestion during a deployment could produce increased exhaust emissions from idling vehicles.
	Mitigation: No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.

Table 2-1. Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts from the Proposed Action, the Alternative to the Proposed Action, and the No-Action Alternative
Page 3 of 3

Resource Category	Proposed Action	Alternative to the Proposed Action	No-Action Alternative
Biological Resources	**Impacts:** Construction activities would require removal of less than 1 acre of woodlands in a developed area. No sensitive species or sensitive habitats would be affected. **Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Impacts:** Construction activities would require removal of approximately 2.7 acres of woodlands in a developed area. No sensitive species or sensitive habitats would be affected. **Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.	**Impacts:** No expansion of the marshalling yard requiring the removal of wooded areas would occur. No change from existing conditions is expected. **Mitigation:** No mitigation measures are required.

ERC = Eglin Readiness Center
FAC = Florida Administrative Code
NPDES = National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the existing environmental conditions at the ERC and adjacent areas on Eglin AFB. The environmental components addressed include relevant aspects of the natural and human environment that are likely to be affected by the Proposed Action or alternatives.

Based upon the nature of the activities that would occur under the alternatives, it was determined that the potential exists for the following resources to be affected: land use and aesthetics, geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources.

The ERC is situated within the Main Base area of Eglin AFB (see Figure 2-1). Eglin AFB occupies 724 square miles of land area in northwest Florida and is situated in Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Walton counties. Eglin Main Base is in Okaloosa County and is situated in the south-central portion of Eglin AFB adjacent to Choctawhatchee Bay.

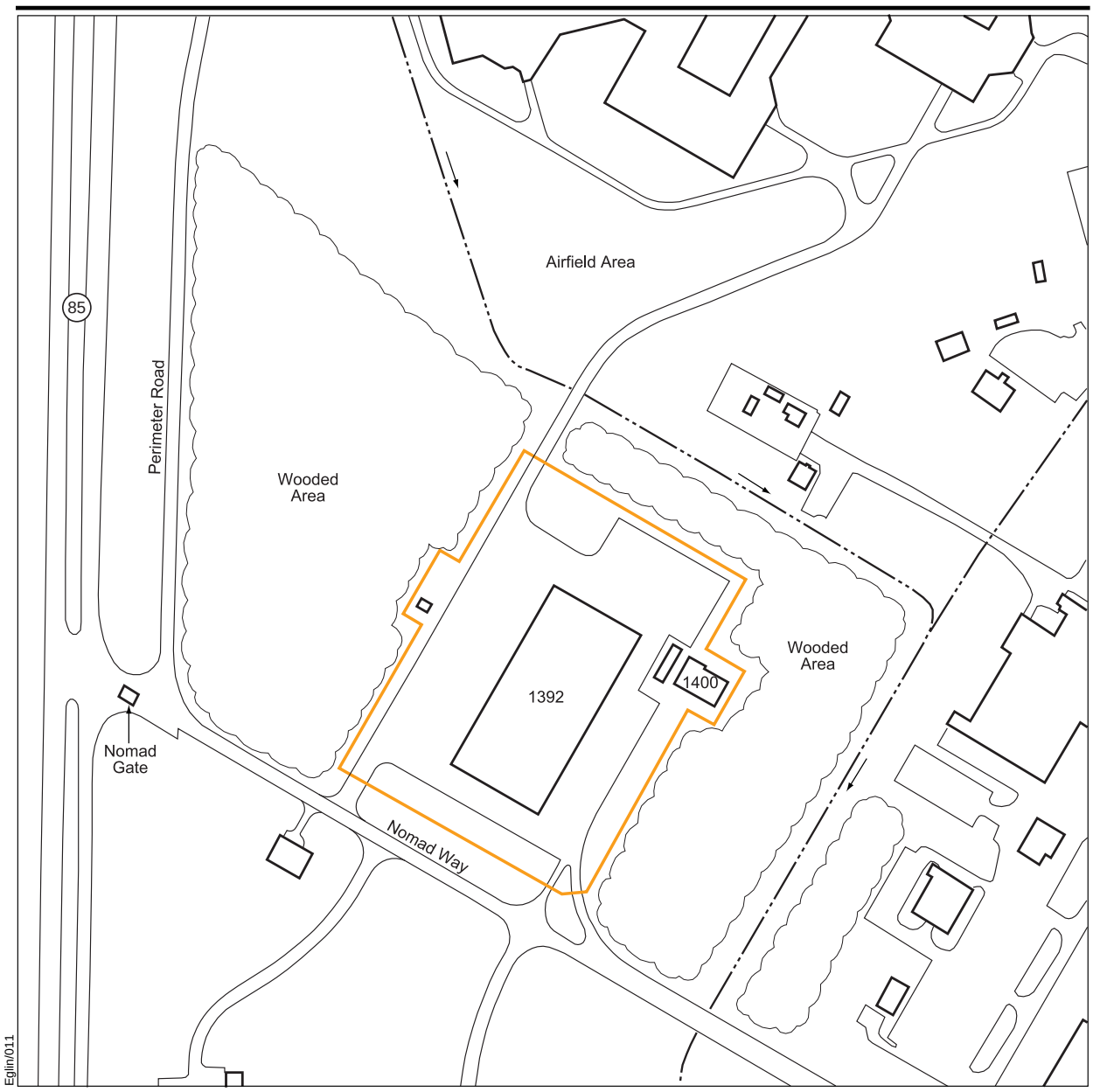
3.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS

This section describes the land use and aesthetics for the ERC. The region of influence (ROI) includes the ERC and potentially affected adjacent property.

Land Use. Land use at the ERC and adjacent areas to the northwest and southwest are designated as industrial in the base's general plan. Adjacent areas to the northeast and southeast are identified as aircraft operations and maintenance (STV Incorporated, 2001). The ERC is a fenced area consisting primarily of Buildings 1392 and 1400 and the paved marshalling yard. Areas beyond the fenceline to the southeast, northeast, and northwest are wooded (Figure 3-1). The wooded areas are situated between the ERC facilities and adjacent facilities to the northeast and southeast that are associated with the aircraft operations and maintenance land use (STV Incorporated, 2001).

Aesthetics. Visual resources include natural and man-made features that give a particular environment its aesthetic qualities. Aesthetics were analyzed for the ERC and adjacent areas. The analysis considered visual sensitivity, which is the degree of public interest in a visual resource and concern over adverse changes in the quality of the resource.

High visual sensitivity exists in areas where views are rare, unique, or in other ways special, such as in remote or pristine environments. High-sensitivity views would include landscapes that have landforms, vegetative patterns, water bodies, or rock formations of unusual or outstanding quality. Areas of medium visual sensitivity, in which the presence of motorized vehicles and other evidence of modern civilization is commonplace, are more developed than areas of high visual sensitivity. Landscape features in areas of medium sensitivity are more common than features in high visual sensitivity areas, and they generally contain varieties in form, color, line, and texture. Low visual sensitivity areas tend to



EXPLANATION

- Existing Buildings
- Eglin Readiness Center Fenceline
- Drainage Ditch with Direction of Flow
- 85 State Road

Approximate Scale

0 111 222 Feet

Eglin Readiness Center Vicinity Map

Figure 3-1

have minimal landscape features, with little change in form, color, line, and texture.

The ERC is not accessible to the public. In addition, because of the level topography and wooded areas adjacent to SR 85, the ERC and adjacent areas are not visible to motorists on this public highway. Views of the ERC consist of several buildings and large, open, non-landscaped paved areas surrounded by a chain link fence. Adjacent areas are wooded. Because of the presence of the buildings, chain link fence, and the large, open, non-landscaped paved areas, the ERC can be considered to have a low visual sensitivity. Adjacent wooded areas can be considered to have a higher visual sensitivity. Views of this area are generally limited to the personnel who work at the ERC.

3.2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the affected environment for natural resources including geology and soils, water resources, air quality, and biological resources.

3.2.1 Geology and Soils

The ROI for geology and soils includes specific geologic features and soils at the ERC.

Geology. Eglin AFB occupies portions of three physiographic provinces: the Coastal Barrier Island Chain parallel to the Gulf coast, the Coastal Lowlands, and the Western Highlands on the northern part of the base (Eglin Air Force Base, 2002). The ERC is situated in the Coastal Lowlands physiographic province.

The upland portion of Eglin AFB is generally blanketed by up to 250 feet of the primarily nonmarine quartz sands with some gravel and relatively thin clay lenses of the Citronelle Formation. This formation is underlain by a series of Miocene-aged coarse clastic and clay marine deposits up to several hundred feet thick. These units are underlain by several hundred feet of early Miocene and Oligocene marine limestones. All of these units dip gently southwestward in the Gulf Coast geosyncline (Eglin Air Force Base, 2002).

The ERC area is at an elevation of 75 feet above mean sea level (U.S. Department of the Interior, Geologic Survey, 1987).

Eglin AFB is situated in Seismic Zone 0 (International Conference of Building Officials, 1991), which indicates that the region has very little or no potential of sustaining major damage from a large earthquake.

Soils. Soils in the ERC area are mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service as Lakeland sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes. This nearly level or gently sloping, excessively drained soil is on broad ridgetops in the uplands. Permeability is rapid, available water capacity is very low, and runoff is slow. The soil is well suited to use as a site for homes, small commercial buildings, and local roads (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1995).

3.2.2 Water Resources

The ROI for water resources includes the ERC site and adjacent areas.

No surface water is present at the ERC or adjacent areas. An earthen drainage ditch is situated approximately 100 feet to the northeast of the marshalling yard (see Figure 3-1). This ditch parallels the northeastern end of the marshalling yard in a northwest-southeast direction. Storm water runoff in this ditch eventually drains to a land area approximately 1,200 feet to the southeast of the ERC (Pacific Environmental Services, Inc., 1999). This ditch does not contain permanent water.

The ERC is an area not mapped for flood hazard potential by the Federal Emergency Management Agency because it has no special flood hazard areas (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2002).

Groundwater at Eglin AFB occurs in the Sand and Gravel Aquifer. This aquifer consists of the Citronelle Formation and marine terrace deposits that thicken to the southwest. The Sand and Gravel Aquifer is an important source of water for Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties and is used primarily for irrigation water in Okaloosa and Walton counties. The Sand and Gravel Aquifer is approximately 75 feet thick in the Eglin Main Base area. In the vicinity of Fort Walton Beach, the aquifer consists of several distinct sandy units, the lowest of which is the main water production zone. Yields from wells in this area vary, but are generally in the range of 200 – 400 gallons per minute. In the Coastal Lowlands physiographic province, the water table is at or within a few feet of the land surface (Eglin Air Force Base, 2002).

3.2.3 Air Quality

Air quality in a given location is defined by the concentration of various pollutants in the atmosphere, generally expressed in units of parts per million (ppm) or microgram per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$). The significance of a pollutant concentration is determined by comparing it to federal and/or state ambient air quality standards. These standards represent the maximum allowable atmospheric concentrations that may occur before impacts to public health and welfare would occur with a reasonable margin of safety. The federal air quality standards are established by the U.S. EPA and termed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These standards include concentrations for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter (PM_{10}), and lead. The state of Florida has developed its own ambient air quality standards. Except for SO_2, these are the same as the NAAQS. Table 3-1 presents the national and state of Florida ambient air quality standards.

According to U.S. EPA guidelines, an area with air quality better than the NAAQS is designated as being in attainment. Areas where pollutants exceed one or more of the NAAQS are classified as nonattainment areas. Pollutants in an area may be designated as unclassified when there is a lack of data from which the U.S. EPA can form a basis of attainment status. An area designated as

Table 3-1. National and Florida Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	Florida Standards	National Standards[a]	
			Primary[b,c]	Secondary[b,d]
Ozone	1-Hour	0.12 ppm (235 μg/m^3)	0.12 ppm (235 μg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard
	8-Hour[e]	---	0.008 ppm (157 μg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard
Nitrogen dioxide	Annual Arithmetic Mean	0.05 ppm (100 μg/m^3)	0.053 ppm (100 μg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard
Carbon monoxide	8-Hour	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	---
	1-Hour	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	---
Sulfur dioxide	Annual Arithmetic Mean	60 μg/m^3 (0.02 ppm)	0.03 ppm (80 μg/m^3)	---
	24-Hour	260 μg/m^3 (0.1.ppm)	0.14 ppm (365 μg/m^3)	---
	3-Hour	1,300 μg/m^3 (0.5 ppm)	---	0.5 ppm (1,300 μg/m^3)
PM_{10}	Annual Arithmetic Mean	50 μg/m^3	50 μg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard
	24-Hour	150 μg/m^3	150 μg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard
$PM_{2.5}$[e]	Annual Arithmetic Mean	---	15 μg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard
	24-Hour	---	65 μg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard
Lead	Quarterly	1.5 μg/m^3	1.5 μg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard

Notes: (a) National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual averages or annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration in a year, averaged over 3 years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM_{10}, the 24-hour standard is attained when 99 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over 3 years, are equal to or less than the standard. For $PM_{2.5}$, the 24-hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over 3 years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current federal policies.

(b) Concentrations are expressed first in units in which they were promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based on a reference temperature of 25 degrees Celsius (°C) and a reference pressure of 760 millimeters (mm) of mercury. All measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 mm of mercury (1,013.2 millibar); ppm in this table refers to parts per million by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.

(c) Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect public health.

(d) Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.

(e) New federal 8-hour ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ standards were promulgated by the U.S. EPA on July 18, 1997. Contact U.S. EPA for further clarification and current federal policies.

--- = not applicable
μg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic meter
mg/m^3 = milligrams per cubic meter
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter equal to or less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM_{10} = particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
ppm = parts per million

unclassified is assumed to be in attainment. Okaloosa County is not designated as a nonattainment area for any of the NAAQS for criteria pollutants by the U.S. EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003b).

Title 40 CFR 51 Part 93, General Conformity, requires federal actions to conform to any State Implementation Plan (SIP) approved or promulgated under Section 110 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). An air conformity applicability analysis and possibly a formal air conformity determination are required for federal actions in nonattainment or maintenance areas. The general conformity rule does not apply because Okaloosa County is not a nonattainment area for the NAAQS.

The CAA requires Title V operating permits for nearly all stationary sources of significant air emissions (e.g., entire military installations). Eglin AFB has an operating permit under Title V of the CAA.

3.2.4 Biological Resources

Biological resources include the native and introduced plant and animal species in the project area. For discussion purposes, biological resources are divided into vegetation, wildlife, sensitive species, and sensitive habitats. The ROI for biological resources includes the proposed marshalling yard expansion areas and adjacent habitats that may be affected.

3.2.4.1 Vegetation.

The ERC is in a developed area within the Eglin Main Base. Areas of mowed vegetation are maintained adjacent to the paved areas inside the fenceline that surrounds the marshalling yard. The area within the fenceline between the marshalling yard and the airfield access road and the area to the southwest of the ERC between the marshalling yard and Nomad Road are mowed areas containing mature trees. Wooded areas are present outside of the fenceline to the southeast, northeast, and northwest. These woods are remnants of the more extensive sandhills ecological association, which is widespread on Eglin AFB and is found adjacent to the landscaped and urban areas of the Eglin Main Base. The sandhills association covers 78 percent of Eglin AFB. The sandhill vegetative community is the predominant community in this association, which also includes small amounts of other plant communities. The xeric uplands sandhill association is dominated by an overstory of scattered longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) with an understory of turkey oak (Q*uercus laevis*), bluejack oak (*Quercus marilandica*), sand post oak (*Quercus stellata* var*. margaretta*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) (Science Applications International Corporation, 2001).

The wooded areas adjacent to the marshalling yard are relatively small (see Figure 3-1). The wooded area to the southeast lies between the ERC area and other buildings situated approximately 300 feet from the ERC; this wooded area is bisected by a drainage channel and an associated corridor of mowed vegetation. The wooded area to the northeast is a strip of trees less than 100 feet wide between the ERC and the mowed vegetation of the airfield area. The wooded area to the northwest is more extensive, occurring in the 500-foot-wide area between the ERC area and the base's perimeter road to the northwest.

3.2.4.2 Wildlife.

The ERC, with its large area of paved surfaces and small areas of mowed grasses and scattered trees, would be expected to provide habitat for a minimal number of wildlife species typical of developed and landscaped areas of Eglin Main Base. The adjacent wooded areas would be expected to provide limited habitat for common wildlife species that can tolerate the human activities occurring in adjacent areas.

3.2.4.3 Sensitive Species.

Sensitive species include those federally listed threatened and endangered, and those that are state listed as threatened, endangered, and special concern species. Sensitive species occurring on Eglin AFB, excluding marine species, are presented in Table 3-2.

None of these sensitive species or their habitat is known to be present at or adjacent to the ERC area. The only federally listed species with habitat near the ERC is the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. A red-cockaded woodpecker tree and an associated foraging zone is mapped within the Eglin Main Base area at a location approximately 1 mile to the southeast of the ERC (Science Applications International Corporation, 2001). However, this colony is inactive and is not considered suitable for future colonization (QST Environmental Inc., 1998). Although some of the species, such as the state-listed as threatened Southeastern American kestrel (*Falco sparverius paulus)*, may utilize habitat in the area, the ERC is developed and the adjacent woodland habitat is fragmented and would not be important habitat for these sensitive species.

3.2.4.4 Sensitive Habitats.

Sensitive habitats include wetlands; plant communities that are unusual or of limited distribution; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species habitat; and important seasonal use areas for wildlife (e.g., breeding areas). No sensitive habitats have been identified at or adjacent to the ERC.

Table 3-2. Sensitive Terrestrial Species Occurring on Eglin AFB, Florida
Page 1 of 2

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Plants			
Pine woods bluestem	*Andropogon arctatus*	None	T
Southern milkweed	*Asclepias viridula*	None	T
Hairy wild indigo	*Baptista calycosa var. villosa*	None	T
Toothed savory	*Calamintha dentate*	None	T
Curtiss' sandgrass	*Calamovilfa curtissii*	None	T
Sweet-shrub	*Calycanthus floridus*	None	E
Baltzell's sedge	*Carex baltzellii*	None	T
Godfrey's golden aster	*Chrysopsis godfreyi*	None	E
Cruise's golden aster	*Chrysopsis gossypina ssp cruiseana*	None	E
Perforate reindeer lichen	*Cladonia perforata*	E	E
Piedmont jointgrass	*Coelorachis tuberculosa*	None	T
Spoon-leaved sundew	*Drosera intermedia*	None	T
Beaked spikerush	*Eleocharis rostellata*	None	E
Trailing arbutus	*Epigaea repens*	None	E
Heartleaf	*Hexastylis arifolia*	None	T
Panhandle spiderliliy	*Hymenocallis henryae*	None	E
Serviceberry holly	*Ilex amelanchier*	None	T
Coville's rush	*Juncus gymnocarpus*	None	E
Mountain laurel	*Kalmia latifolia*	None	T
Bog button	*Lachnocaulon digynum*	None	T
Panhandle lily	*Lilium iridollae*	None	E
Carolina lily	*Lilium michauxii*	None	E
Bog spicebush	*Lindera subcoriacea*	None	E
West's flax	*Linum westii*	None	E
Pondspice	*Litsea aestivalis*	None	E
Gulf coast lupine	*Lupinus westianus*	None	T
Hummingbird flower	*Macranthera flammea*	None	E
Ashe's magnolia	*Magnolia ashei*	None	E
Pyramid magnolia	*Magnolia pyramidata*	None	E
Green adder's mouth	*Malaxis unifolia*	None	E
Alabama spiny-pod	*Matelea alabamensis*	None	E
Indian cucumber-root	*Medeola virginiana*	None	E
Pinesap	*Monotropa hypopithys*	None	E
Naked stemmed panic grass	*Panicum nudicaule*	None	T
Primrose-flowered butterwort	*Pinguicula primuliflora*	None	E
Yellow fringeless orchid	*Platanthera integra*	None	E
Arkansas oak	*Quercus arkansana*	None	T
Large-leaved jointweed	*Polygonella macrophylla*	None	T
Small-flowered meadowbeauty	*Rhexia parviflora*	None	E
Panhandle meadowbeauty	*Rhexia salicifolia*	None	T
Orange azalea	*Rhododendron austrinum*	None	E
Hairy-peduncled beakrush	*Rhynchospora crinipes*	None	E
White-top pitcherplant	*Sarracenia leucophylla*	None	E

Table 3-2. Sensitive Terrestrial Species Occurring on Eglin AFB, Florida
Page 2 of 2

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Plants (Continued)			
Sweet pitcherplant	*Sarracenia rubra*	None	T
Thorne's buckthorn	*Sideroxylon thornei*	None	E
Silky camellia	*Stewartia malocodendron*	None	E
Pineland hoary-pea	*Tephrosia mohrii*	None	T
Yellow-root	*Xanthoriza simplicissima*	None	E
Karst pond xyris	*Xyris longisepala*	None	E
Harper's yellow-eyed grass	*Xyris scabrifolia*	None	T
Fish			
Gulf sturgeon	*Acipenser oxyrinchus desetoi*	T	SSC
Okaloosa darter	*Etheostoma okaloosae*	E	E
Bluenose shiner	*Pteronotropis welaka*	None	SSC
Amphibians and Reptiles			
Flatwoods salamander	*Ambystoma cingulatum*	T	SSC
Gopher frog	*Rana capito*	None	SSC
Florida bog frog	*Rana okaloosae*	None	SSC
American alligator	*Alligator mississippiensis*	T(S/A)	SSC
Eastern indigo snake	*Crymarchon corais couperi*	T	T
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	None	SSC
Alligator snapping turtle	*Macroclemys temminckii*	None	SSC
Florida pine snake	*Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus*	None	SSC
Birds			
Snowy plover	*Charadrius alexandrinus*	None	T
Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	T	T
Southeastern American kestrel	*Falco sparverius paulus*	None	T
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	T	T
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E	T
Black skimmer	*Rhynchops niger*	None	SSC
Florida burrowing owl	*Speotyto cunicularia floridana*	None	SSC
Least tern	*Sterna antillarum*	None	T
Mammals			
Sherman's fox squirrel	*Sciurus niger shermani*	None	SSC
Florida black bear	*Ursus americanus floridanus*	None	T

E = endangered
S/A = similarity of appearance
SSC = special concern (state designation)
T = threatened

Source: Eglin Air Force Base, 2002; Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2003; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter presents the results of the analysis of potential environmental effects of implementing the Proposed Action and alternatives at the ERC. Changes to the natural and human environments that may result from the alternatives were evaluated relative to the existing environment, as described in Chapter 3.0. For each environmental component, anticipated direct and indirect effects were assessed, considering both short- and long-term project effects. The potential for significant environmental consequences was evaluated utilizing the context and intensity considerations as defined in CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Part 1508.27).

4.1 LAND USE AND AESTHETICS

4.1.1 Proposed Action

The marshalling yard extension would be an expansion of an existing land use. The extension of the marshalling yard and the installation of the aircraft cargo equipment shelter would be consistent with the ERC area's land use designation as industrial in the base's general plan. Extension of the marshalling yard would result in the conversion of approximately 1 acre of wooded area to a paved area; however, this would be consistent with the industrial land use designation of the area. The Proposed Action would occur in an area adjacent to areas designated as aircraft operations and maintenance land use. Although ERC activities are not considered aircraft operations or maintenance activities because they involve loading cargo onto aircraft, the ERC is required to be near the flightline. Aircraft operations and maintenance is an industrial type of activity; therefore, the Proposed Action would be compatible with this adjacent land use.

Eglin AFB prepared a Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination for the ERC improvements project and submitted it to the Florida State Clearinghouse, which concurred that the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. A copy of the consistency determination is provided in Appendix A. A copy of the state's response is provided in Appendix B.

Because the Proposed Action would be consistent with existing land uses and the CZMA, and would support the mission of the ERC, impacts to land use would not be considered significant.

The ERC is considered to have a low visual sensitivity. The Proposed Action would require removal of the higher visual sensitivity wooded area to the northeast. This wooded area currently serves as a visual screen between the ERC and the more open areas of the airfield area and other buildings to the northeast of the ERC. Removal of this wooded area would result in airfield areas and buildings being visible from the marshalling yard. The removal of the woods and subsequent availability of views of the airfield and other buildings would result in an adverse impact to visual resources. However, the ERC area is not

accessible to or visible to the public. Only a limited number of personnel associated with ERC activities would view this change in the visual environment on a routine basis. Wooded areas would remain to the southeast and northwest of the ERC and the expanded marshalling yard would appear as an extension of the existing ERC, so that the general visual environment would not change significantly. Installation of the aircraft cargo loader shelter would be consistent with the facilities and setting of the ERC. Impacts to aesthetics would not be significant.

4.1.2 Alternative to the Proposed Action

Impacts to land use would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action in Section 4.1.1. Under this alternative, the marshalling yard extension would occur to the northwest, resulting in the conversion of approximately 2.7 acres of wooded area to paved marshalling yard. This area is designated as an industrial land use in the base's general plan.

Because the Alternative to the Proposed Action would be consistent with existing land uses and the CZMA, and would support the mission of the ERC, impacts to land use would not be considered significant.

Impacts to aesthetics would be similar to those described under the Proposed Action. Under this alternative, the marshalling yard would be expanded into a wooded area to the northwest. While this alternative would result in the removal of a larger wooded area, the visual environment would not change significantly because the expanded area would still appear as a paved area surrounded by wooded areas. The wooded visual screen between the ERC and the open areas of the flightline and other buildings to the northeast that would be removed under the Proposed Action would be retained under this alternative.

4.1.3 No-Action Alternative

No changes to existing land uses at the ERC would occur and no changes to the visual environment would occur; therefore, no impacts to land use and aesthetics would be expected.

4.1.4 Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

4.2.1 Geology and Soils

4.2.1.1 Proposed Action.

Expansion of the paved marshalling yard would involve ground disturbance. The primary ground-disturbing activity would be grading the proposed extension area to clear it of vegetation and prepare it to receive fill material. A total of approximately 1.3 acres would be disturbed to create the marshalling yard

expansion. The disturbed soils would be susceptible to wind and rain erosion. Use of standard soil erosion control measures that would be implemented for ground-disturbing activities as part routine construction activities would preclude the need for mitigation measures. Standard erosion control measures, including perimeter controls, such as use of straw bales, silt fences, and beams, and surface protection, such as use of mulching and hydroseeding, would be employed to minimize the potential for erosion during and after ground-disturbing activities. In addition, because the amount of ground-disturbing activities would be more than 1 acre, but less than 5 acres, it would be considered a small construction activity subject to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements for storm water discharge. The NPDES permit would require development and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan, including measures to control erosion and sedimentation. Compliance with the plan would minimize the potential for erosion of disturbed soils. Because erosion control measures would be implemented during construction activities, no significant impacts to soils or geology would be expected.

4.2.1.2 Alternative to the Proposed Action.

Impacts to geology and soils would be similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Action, as described in Section 4.2.1.1. Although the amount of ground disturbance (approximately 2.7 acres) would be greater than under the Proposed Action, the impacts would be similar. The Alternative to the Proposed Action would be subject to the same NPDES permit requirements as the Proposed Action. No significant impacts to soils or geology would be expected.

4.2.1.3 No-Action Alternative.

No ground-disturbing activities would occur under the No-Action Alternative; therefore no significant impacts to soils or geology would be expected.

4.2.1.4 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2.2 Water Resources

4.2.2.1 Proposed Action.

Although there are no permanent surface water features near the ERC that could be affected by the Proposed Action, the earthen drainage ditch situated to the northeast of the ERC could receive storm water runoff from the site. Storm water runoff during construction activities could result in soil erosion and sedimentation. As discussed in Section 4.2.1.1, the Proposed Action would be subject to NPDES permit requirements for storm water discharge. The NPDES permit would require development and implementation of a storm water pollution prevention plan. Compliance with the plan would minimize potential impacts from storm water runoff during construction activities.

Under the Proposed Action, an increase in impervious surfaces would be created. The marshalling yard expansion would result in an increase of approximately 1 acre of paved surfaces. This increase in the amount of impervious surfaces could increase surface water runoff and result in a decrease in ground water recharge. The marshalling yard extension would have to comply with FAC Chapter 62-25, Regulations of Stormwater Discharge, permit requirements including detention or retention of storm water runoff. Compliance with these requirements would minimize the effects of increased surface water runoff and decreased groundwater recharge by detaining or retaining storm water runoff and allowing it to filter into the ground.

Because storm water pollution prevention measures during construction and storm water runoff detention/retention of the expanded marshalling yard would be implemented, no significant impacts to water resources would be expected.

4.2.2.2 Alternative to the Proposed Action.

Impacts to geology and soils would be similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Action, as described in Section 4.2.2.1. Although the amount of ground disturbance (approximately 2.7 acres) and impervious surfaces (approximately 1.7 acres) would be greater than under the Proposed Action, the impacts would be similar. The Alternative to the Proposed Action would be subject to the same NPDES permit and FAC storm water permit requirements as described for the Proposed Action. No significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.2.3 No-Action Alternative.

No ground-disturbing activities or increases in impervious surfaces associated with expansion of the marshalling yard would occur; therefore, no significant impacts to water resources would be expected.

4.2.2.4 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2.3 Air Quality

4.2.3.1 Proposed Action.

Short-term air quality impacts may occur during construction activities. Construction activities would occur during a 2-month period. Combustive emissions would occur from construction equipment usage, including trucks bringing fill material to the site. Fugitive dust would primarily be generated during ground-disturbing activities (e.g., vegetation clearance, placing fill material, grading). Air emissions from the Proposed Action would be minimal, as shown in Table 4-1, and would not be expected to result in any exceedance of the NAAQS or Florida Ambient Air Quality Standards (FAAQS). Because dust would be controlled by use of wetting techniques during ground-disturbing activities, actual PM_{10} emissions would be expected to be less than the amount shown in Table 4-1. After completion of the ERC improvements, cargo loading operations would

Table 4-1. Proposed Action Air Emissions[a][b]

Emissions in Tons per Year			
CO	NO_x	PM_{10}[c]	VOC
1.00	3.58	0.28	0.22

Notes: (a) Emissions include those from grading and construction activities and trucks bringing fill to the site.
(b) Assumes a 2-month construction period.
(c) PM_{10} emissions include combustive and fugitive emissions.
CO = carbon monoxide
NO_x = nitrogen oxides
PM_{10} = particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
VOC = volatile organic compound

Source of emission factors: South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1993.

be more efficient and may result in less idling time for transport equipment during a deployment, which may result in a reduction in vehicle exhaust emissions. However, because deployments are not a predictable, routine activity, an annual reduction in emissions would not be quantifiable.

4.2.3.2 Alternative to the Proposed Action.

Impacts to air quality would be similar to those anticipated under the Proposed Action. As shown in Table 4-2, air emissions would be slightly higher than under the Proposed Action because of the larger area of disturbance and greater quantity of fill required. However, air emissions from the Alternative to the Proposed Action would still be minimal and would not be expected to result in any exceedance of the NAAQS or FAAQS. Because dust would be controlled by use of wetting techniques during ground-disturbing activities, actual PM_{10} emissions would be expected to be less than the amount shown in Table 4-2.

Table 4-2. Alternative to the Proposed Action Air Emissions

Emissions in Tons per Year [a] [b]			
CO	NO_x	PM_{10}[c]	VOC
1.42	4.56	0.38	0.27

Notes: (a) Emissions include those from grading and construction activities and trucks bringing fill to the site.
(b) Assumes a 2-month construction period.
(c) PM_{10} emissions include combustive and fugitive emissions.
CO = carbon monoxide
NO_x = nitrogen oxides
PM_{10} = particulate matter equal to or less than 10 microns in diameter
VOC = volatile organic compound

Source of emission factors: South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1993.

4.2.3.3 No-Action Alternative.

No ground-disturbing activities or construction equipment usage that would result in air emissions would occur. However, cargo loading activities would continue to be inefficient causing traffic to back-up; therefore, increased exhaust from transport vehicles during idling may continue to be produced during a deployment. No significant impacts to air quality would be expected.

4.2.3.4 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

4.2.4.1 Proposed Action.

Vegetation. The proposed marshalling yard extension would result in the removal of less than 1 acre of woodlands. This woodland occurs in a strip less than 100 feet wide between the existing marshalling yard and the cleared airfield area (see Figure 3-1). This wooded area is a remnant of the sandhills ecological association. Although the Proposed Action would result in the loss of natural vegetation, this area is a fragmented woodland situated in a developed area. The loss of this small area of natural vegetation in a developed area would not represent a significant loss of sandhills vegetation, which covers 324,498 acres on Eglin AFB. No significant impacts to vegetation would be expected.

Wildlife. Wildlife species occupying the proposed marshalling yard extension area would be removed by ground-disturbing activities. Although most wildlife species would be expected to vacate the area during tree removal and grading activities, some burrowing and/or smaller, less mobile species, such as lizards and mice, may be killed during ground-disturbing activities. Wildlife in adjacent areas may be temporarily displaced by noise during construction activities; however, the ERC area is a developed area that is exposed to noise from human activities. Most of the wildlife species present would be expected to be tolerant of human activities and habituated to existing noise levels. Construction activities would be short term and wildlife displaced by noise would be expected to return to adjacent areas upon completion of construction activities. The proposed marshalling yard extension would result in the permanent loss of less than 1 acre of woodlands. This area is a narrow (less than 100 feet wide) strip of fragmented woodlands situated in a developed area. This area is not expected to provide habitat for a wide diversity and number of wildlife. Although the paving of this wooded area could result in the loss of some foraging and nesting habitat for some common wildlife species, the loss of this habitat would not represent a significant impact to these wildlife species. Tree removal and grading activities would be conducted in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which requires that migratory birds and their nests not be destroyed.

Sensitive Species. No sensitive species or their habitats are known to occur in the ERC area; therefore, no significant impacts to sensitive species would be expected.

Sensitive Habitats. No sensitive habitats are present in the ERC; therefore, no significant impacts to sensitive habitats would be expected.

4.2.4.2 Alternative to the Proposed Action.

Vegetation. Impacts to vegetation would be similar to those described for the Proposed Action. A slightly larger area (approximately 2.7 acres) of native

vegetation would be lost under the Alternative to the Proposed Action than would occur under the Proposed Action. The woodland vegetation in this area is less fragmented than the area that would be affected by the Proposed Action because it is part of a larger area of woodlands (less than 10 acres). However, this area of woodlands is surrounded by roads and the cleared airfield area (see Figure 3-1). As under the Proposed Action, the loss of this small area of natural vegetation in a developed area would not represent a significant loss of sandhills vegetation, which covers 324,498 acres on Eglin AFB. No significant impacts to vegetation would be expected.

Wildlife. Impacts to wildlife would be similar to those that would occur under the Proposed Action. Under the Alternative to the Proposed Action, a larger area of woodland habitat (approximately 2.7 acres) would be removed. Because this area is part of a larger contiguous block of woodlands than the woodlands that would be affected by the Proposed Action, this may represent a loss of better quality woodland habitat than would occur under the Proposed Action. However, the loss of this small area of habitat would not represent a significant impact to wildlife species. Tree removal and grading activities would be conducted in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which requires that migratory birds and their nests not be destroyed.

Sensitive Species. No sensitive species or their habitats are known to occur in the ERC area; therefore, no significant impacts to sensitive species would be expected.

Sensitive Habitats. No sensitive habitats are present in the ERC area; therefore, no significant impacts to sensitive habitats would be expected.

4.2.4.3 No-Action Alternative.

No changes to existing conditions would occur under the No-Action Alternative; therefore, no significant impacts would be expected.

4.2.4.4 Mitigation Measures.

No mitigation measures would be required.

4.3 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The ERC improvements project would not result in any unavoidable adverse environmental effects.

4.4 COMPATIBILITY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAND USE PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposed ERC improvements project would be consistent with the land uses for the area designated in the base's general plan and would be compatible with existing land uses in the area.

4.5 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The ERC improvements project would not affect the long-term productivity of the environment.

4.6 IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Implementation of the ERC improvements project would result in an irreversible or irretrievable commitment of small quantities of resources such as fuel, metallic and nonmetallic construction materials, and labor.

4.7 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Cumulative impacts result from "the incremental impacts of actions when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time" (Council on Environmental Quality, 1978).

No other actions have been identified for the ERC area that have the potential to result in significant cumulative impacts. Other construction projects may be proposed for Eglin Main Base, a 10,000-acre urban area. Compliance with NPDES permit requirements during construction and with FAC regulations for managing storm water discharge would serve to minimize cumulative impacts of each project to surface water quality from storm water runoff and to groundwater recharge from a cumulative increase in impervious surfaces. Air emissions from the ERC improvements project would be short term and minimal and would not be expected to be cumulatively significant when considered with the air emissions generated by other construction projects or activities. Because most of the Eglin Main Base area is a developed area with no important natural resources, no significant cumulative impacts to biological resources would be expected.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Charles Brown, Environmental Protection Specialist, HQ AFCEE/ECE
B.E.T., 1976, Civil Engineering, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
B.A., 1977, Business Administration, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Years of Experience: 21

Derrick Coleman, Senior Hydrologist, Earth Tech
Ph.D., 1982, Geomorphology, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
B.A., 1975, Physical Geography, University of California, Berkeley
Years of Experience: 22

Ken Forman, Project Biologist, Earth Tech
B.A., Environmental Studies – Natural Resource Management, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Years of Experience: 7

Wen Huang, P.E., Project Environmental Professional, Earth Tech
M.S., 1996, Environmental Engineering, University of Southern California, Los Angeles
B.S., 1992, Atmospheric Sciences, National Taiwan University, Taiwan
Years of Experience: 8

Maria Langmaack, Senior Environmental Professional, Earth Tech
B.A., 1988, Geography, California State University, San Bernardino
Years of Experience: 16

Carl Rykaczewski, Project Environmental Professional, Earth Tech
B.S., 1981, Environmental Resource Management, Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Years of Experience: 15

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

6.0 REFERENCES

Council on Environmental Quality, 1978. Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Department of the Air Force, 1999. Air Force Handbook 32-7084, AICUZ Program Manager's Guide, 1 March.

Earth Tech, 2003. Site Visit Trip Report for Eglin Readiness Center Improvements and Cape San Blas Towers Environmental Assessments, Eglin Air Force Base, 19 May.

Eglin Air Force Base, 2002. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, 2002-2006.

Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2002. FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map Okaloosa County, FLA and Incorporated Areas, Map Number 12091CINDOA, 6 December.

Florida Natural Areas Inventory, 2003. Species and Natural Community Summary for Okaloosa County. http://www.fnai.org/OKA_SUM.HTM.

International Conference of Building Officials, 1991. Uniform Building Code.

Pacific Environmental Services, 1999. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, August.

QST Environmental Inc., 1998. Final Environmental Assessment for the Replacement of Wherry Multi-Family Housing, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, December

Science Applications International Corporation, 2001. Environmental Assessment Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida (Draft), November.

South Coast Air Quality Management District, 1993. CEQA Air Quality Handbook, April.

STV incorporated, 2001. General Plan Eglin Air Force Base Main Base and Duke Field, November.

U.S. Air Force, 2001. Biological Assessment to Determine Impacts to Federally-Listed Species Resulting from the Implementation of an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

U.S Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, 1995. Soil Survey of Okaloosa County, Florida.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Geologic Survey, 1987. Fort Walton Beach Quadrangle –Okaloosa County 7.5-minute series (topographic), scale 1:24,000.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003a. EPA Map of Radon Zones, Florida. http://www.epa.gov/iaq/radon/zonemap/florida.html.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2003b. Nonattainment Area Map. http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/mapnpoll.html.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2003. Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS) webpages. http://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public.

APPENDIX A

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

FEDERAL AGENCY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Introduction

This document provides the State of Florida with the U.S. Air Force's Consistency Determination under CZMA Section 307 and 15 C.F.R. Part 930 sub-part C. The information in this Consistency Determination is provided pursuant to 15 C.F.R. Section 930.39.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456, as amended, its implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 930, this is a Federal Consistency Determination for mission activities described within the Environmental Assessment (Chapter 2 of the EA).

Proposed Federal agency action:

The proposed action, which is the preferred alternative in the environmental assessment, is the extension of the Eglin Readiness Center paved marshalling yard approximately 100 feet to the northeast and installation of an aircraft cargo loader shelter between buildings 1392 and 1400 in the ERC. More detail of the Eglin Readiness Center (ERC) Improvement Project is provided in Chapter 2 of the EA.

The U.S. Air Force, Air Armament Center has evaluated the missions described in the Eglin Readiness Center (ERC) Improvement Project Environmental Assessment for potential effects to the land or water uses or natural resources of the State of Florida's coastal zone within the context of the statutes listed in the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan (below).

Federal Consistency Review

Statutes addressed as part of the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program consistency review and considered in the analysis of the proposed action are discussed in the following table.

Table x-1. Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 161 *Beach and Shore Preservation*	The proposed project will not adversely affect beach and shore management, specifically as pertains to: -The Coastal Construction Permit Program. Construction would not occur seaward of the mean high water line. -The Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Permit Program. Construction would not occur seaward of the CCCL, where wind and wave forces would potentially cause significant fluctuations in the beach/dune system. Further, all land activities occur on federal property. -The Coastal Zone Protection Program. Buildings would not be constructed between the seasonal high-water line and 1,500 feet landward of the CCCL.	Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within DEP to regulate construction on or seaward of the states' beaches.
Chapter 163, Part II *Growth Policy; County and Municipal Planning; Land Development Regulation*	The proposed action, which occurs primarily on federal property, conforms to local government comprehensive development plans. Transitions from federal property into state waters primarily occur within restricted and prohibited areas controlled by the U.S. Air Force and would not interfere with development.	Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest.
Chapter 186 *State and Regional Planning*	State and regional agencies were provided the opportunity to review the environmental assessment. The proposed action, which occurs primarily on federal property, conforms with the State Comprehensive Plan and associated translational plans, including the State Land Development Plan, Florida Water Plan, Florida Transportation Plan, and strategic regional policy plans.	Details state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water use, land development, and transportation.

Table x-1. Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 252 *Emergency Management*	The proposed action would not increase the state's vulnerability to natural disasters. Emergency response and evacuation procedures would not be impacted by the proposed action. Activities described in the EA did not historically require closures of state roadways; thus, traffic delays are not expected.	Provides for planning and implementation of the state's response to, efforts to recover from, and the mitigation of natural and manmade disasters.
Chapter 253 *State Lands*	The proposed action would not involve the use of state submerged lands. An environmental resource permit (ERP) and/or Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) would not need to be obtained.	Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property of this state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands.
Chapter 258 *State Parks and Preserves* Chapter 259 *Land Acquisition for Conservation or Recreation* Chapter 260 *Recreational Trails System* Chapter 375 *Multipurpose Outdoor Recreation; Land Acquisition, Management, and Conservation*	The proposed action would not involve state conservation lands and water areas, state natural areas or environmentally unique and irreplaceable lands, state conservation lands, state historical or archeological sites or lands that are currently part of the recreational trails system.	Addresses administration and management of state parks and preserves (Chapter 258). Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands (Chapter 259). Authorizes acquisition of land to create a recreational trails system and to facilitate management of the system (Chapter 260). Develops comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose means to meet the identified needs (Chapter 375).

Table x-1. Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 267 *Historical Resources*	The proposed action would not have a significant impact on cultural resources. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office is not required for this action.	Addresses management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.
Chapter 288 *Commercial Development and Capital Improvements*	The proposed action occurs primarily on federal property. The proposed action is not anticipated to have any effect on future business opportunities on state lands, or the promotion of tourism in the region.	Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.
Chapter 334 *Transportation Administration* Chapter 339 *Transportation Finance and Planning*	Potential impacts to public transportation were evaluated in Chapter 4.0 page 4-1of the EA. Based on the analysis the proposed action would not have an effect on water and land transportation within the region of influence. Coordination with local government and the State Department of Transportation are not required	Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration (Chapter 334). Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system (Chapter 339).
Chapter 370 *Saltwater Fisheries*	Saltwater fisheries would not be affected.	Addresses management and protection of the state's saltwater fisheries.
Chapter 372 *Wildlife*	Potential impacts to wildlife, including threatened and endangered species are evaluated in Chapter 4.0 pages 4-6 and 4-7. The proposed action would not significantly affect threatened and/or endangered species. Management practices and/or mitigations would not be necessary.	Addresses the management of the wildlife resources of the state.
Chapter 373 *Water Resources*	The proposed action would not have impacts on surface and ground waters. Stormwater management, potable water use and impacts to water quality are discussed in Chapter 4.0 page 4-3. The EA has determined that any consumptive use of water is a	Addresses the state's policy concerning water resources.

Table x-1. Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
	reasonable beneficial use of water as determined in Section 373.019(5), Florida Statutes, will not interfere with any presently existing legal use of water, and use of water resources is consistent with the public interest. Best management practices would be implemented to minimize stormwater runoff. As discussed in Chapter 4.0 pages 4-3 and 4-4, potential impacts to water resources would not be significant.	
Chapter 376 *Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Removal*	The proposed action does not involve the storage, transportation and/or discharge of pollutants. There would be no significant impacts from pollutant discharges.	Regulates transfer, storage, and transportation of pollutants, and cleanup of pollutant discharges.
Chapter 377 *Energy Resources*	Energy resource production, including oil and gas, and the transportation of oil and gas, would not be affected by the proposed action.	Addresses regulation, planning, and development of energy resources of the state.
Chapter 380 *Land and Water Management*	The proposed action would primarily occur on federally owned lands. Under the proposed action development of state lands with regional (i.e. more than one county) impacts would not occur. Areas of Critical State Concern or areas with approved state resource management plans such as the Northwest Florida Coast and the Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties coastal area would not be affected. Changes to coastal infrastructure such as bridge construction, capacity increases of existing coastal infrastructure, or use of state funds for infrastructure planning, designing or construction would not occur.	Establishes land and water management policies to guide and coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.

Table x-1. Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 381 *Public Health, General Provisions*	The proposed action does not involve the construction of an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system. A permit is not applicable for the proposed action.	Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system.
Chapter 388 *Mosquito Control*	The proposed action would not affect mosquito control.	Addresses mosquito control effort in the state.
Chapter 403 *Environmental Control*	The proposed action would not affect ecological systems and water quality of state waters. Effects on water quality, discussed in Chapter 4.0 pages 4-3 would not be significant. The proposed action would not affect air quality. Air quality impacts analyzed in Chapter 4.0 pages 4-4 and 4-5 would not be significant.	Establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state.
Chapter 582 *Soil and Water Conservation*	The proposed action would not result in soil erosion and/or significant impacts to water quality from soil erosion. Best management practices for preventing and controlling erosion would be necessary and are described in Chapter 4.0 pages 4-2 and 4-3.	Provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion.

Pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 930.41, the Florida State Clearinghouse has 60 days from receipt of this document in which to concur with or object to this Consistency Determination, or to request an extension, in writing, under 15 C.F.R. § 930.41(b). Florida's concurrence will be presumed if Eglin AFB does not receive its response on the 60th day from receipt of this determination.

APPENDIX B

AGENCY CONSULTATION

Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

February 2, 2004

Mr. Stephen M. Seiber
Chief, Natural Resources Branch
AAC/EMSN
501 De Leon Street, Suite 101
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5133

RE: U.S. Department of the Air Force – Eglin Air Force Readiness Center Improvements Project, Marshalling Yard Extension and Storage Shelter Construction – Okaloosa County, Florida
SAI: FL200312194880C

Dear Mr. Seiber:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced application.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notes that the activity will require stormwater treatment and qualification for a general permit pursuant to Chapter 62-25, Florida Administrative Code. The Air Force is advised to contact the Department's Northwest District Office in Pensacola at (850) 595-8300 regarding permit requirements.

Based on the information contained in the above-referenced project and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, as summarized above and enclosed, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). All subsequent environmental documents prepared for the project must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's consistency concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Daniel Lawson at 850/245-2174.

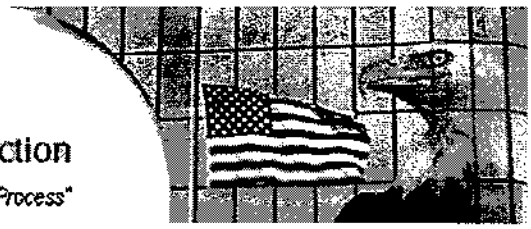
Yours sincerely,

Sally B. Mann

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/dl
cc: Dick Fancher, DEP, Northwest District

Florida
Department of Environmental Protection
"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

Project Comment Confirmation	
Project:	FL200312194880C
Due Date:	JANUARY 18, 2004
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	USAF - EGLIN AFB READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS - OKALOOSA CO.
Program:	12.200
Comment:	The DEP notes that the activity will require stormwater treatment and qualification for a general permit pursuant to 62-25 of the Florida Administrative Code for. The Air Force is advised to contact the Department?s Northwest District Office in Pensacola regarding permit requirements.
Comment Type:	DRAFT
Comment Saved Date:	FEBRUARY 02, 2004

Return to User Page

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the Clearinghouse Home Page to query other projects.

COUNTY: OKALOOSA
SAI-USAFEG
2003-11138

DATE: 12/19/2003
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 1/18/2004
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 2/12/2004
SAI#: FL200312194880C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
X STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- **Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).**
  Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X **Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.**
- **Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.**
- **Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.**

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

- ☑ No Comment
- ☐ Comment Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

- ☑ No Comment/Consistent
- ☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

From:
Division/Bureau: Division of Historical Resources / Bureau of Historic Preservation
Reviewer: S. Edwards
Date: 12-29-03
NHPA / 43K

SHPO 12/29/03
Deputy SHPO 12/29/03

03 DEC 29 AM 11:25

RECEIVED
DEC 31 2003
OIP/OLGA

NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Project Review Form

TO: **State Clearinghouse**
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

DATE: **January 1, 2004**

SUBJECT: Project Review: **Intergovernmental Coordination**
Title: **Dept. of the Air Force-Eglin Air Force Base Readiness Center Improvements Project, Marshalling Yard Extension and Storage Shelter Construction-Okaloosa County, FL**
SAI #: **FL200312194880C**

The District has reviewed the subject application and attachments in accordance with its responsibilities and authority under the provisions of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. As a result review, the District has the following responses:

ACTION

_x___ No Comment.

____ Supports the project.

____ Objects to the project; explanation attached.

____ Has no objection to the project; explanation optional.

___ Cannot evaluate the project; explanation attached.

____ Project requires a permit from the District under____.

DEGREE OF REVIEW

__x__ Documentation was reviewed.

____ Field investigation was performed.

____ Discussed and/or contacted appropriate office about project.

____ Additional documentation/research is required.

____ Comments attached.

SIGNED Maria Gilbertsen

Duncan Jay Cairns
Chief, Bur. Env. & Res. Plng.

COUNTY: OKALOOSA

DATE: 12/19/2003
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 1/18/2004
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 2/12/2004
SAI#: FL200312194880C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
X FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

_ Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA

☑ No Comment
☐ Comment Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

☑ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Reviewer: BRIAN BARNETT
Date: 12/30/03

RECEIVED
DEC 31 2003
OIP/OLGA

RECEIVED BY FWC
DEC 29 2003
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

COUNTY: OKALOOSA

DATE: 12/19/2003
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 1/18/2004
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 2/12/2004
SAI#: FL200312194880C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	X NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

X **Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.**

_ **Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.**

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA

☑ No Comment
☐ Comment Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

☐ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

NO COMMENTS

From:

Division/Bureau: NWFWMD ~~Resource Management Div.~~
Reviewer: Duncan J. Cairns
Date: Date 12 JANUARY 04

COUNTY: OKALOOSA

DATE: 12/19/2003
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 1/18/2004
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 2/12/2004
SAI#: FL200312194880C

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MNGMNT. DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNIT	RPCS & LOC GOVS
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	NORTHWEST FLORIDA WMD	X ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION			
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION			
STATE			

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

X **Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.**

_ **Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.**

_ **Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.**

Project Description:

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE - EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION - OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

- ☑ No Comment
- ☐ Comment Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☐ No Comment/Consistent
- ☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

RECEIVED
JAN 06 2004
OIP/OLGA

From:

Division/Bureau: OPB. Env.
Reviewer: JR Gurney
Date: 12/31/2003

RECEIVED
DEC 22 2003
OFFICE OF POLICY AND BUDGET
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT

WFRPC
WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Post Office Box 9759 • 3435 North 12th Avenue • Pensacola, Florida 32513-9759
Phone (850) 595-8910 • S/C 695-8910 • (800) 226-8914 • Fax (850) 595-8967

Lel Czeck
Executive Director

Cody Taylor
Chairman

Sydney Joel Pate
Vice-Chairman

FAX TRANSMITTAL (S) Total # of Pages (including cover) 1

TO: **STATE CLEARINGHOUSE • FAX:** (850) 245-2190/(850) 245-2189
Phone: 850-245-2161

DATE: January 16, 2004

FROM: Terry Joseph, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator
Extension 206
josepht@wfrpc.dst.fl.us

SUBJECT: **State Clearinghouse Review(s) Fax Transmittals:**

SAI #	Project Description	RPC #
SAI#FL200312234900C	DEPT OF AIR FORCE – EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE – CZMA DETERMINATION – CONSTRUCT A RECREATIONAL FISHING PIER – POSTL POINT PROPERTY OF EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – ENGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, SANTA ROSA, OKALOOSA AND WALTON COUNTIES.	MJ703-1-05-2004
SAI#FL200312194882C	DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL LOANS AND GRANTS – BAGDAD, GARCON POINT WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SANTA ROSA COUNTY FLORIDA.	SR-391-1-5-2004
SAI#FL200312194880C	DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE – EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE READINESS CENTER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, MARSHALLING YARD EXTENSION AND STORAGE SHELTER CONSTRUCTION – OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA	O630-1-5-2004

X	No Comments – Generally consistent with the WFSRPP
	Comments Attached

If you have any questions, please call.